Railway Safety Review Committee

2086. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter the Railway Safety Review Committee has recommended Government to provide a one-time grant for removal of tracks, bridges, rolling stock and signal gears in a fixed time-frame;

(b) whether Government instead of propose to privatise the Railways and run on commercial lines; and

(c) if so, what are Government's final views in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Railway Safety Review Committee-98 has recommended that Central Government sould provide a one-time grant to Railways so that the arrears in the renewal of track, bridges, rolling stock and signalling gear are wiped out within the time frame specified by the Committee. Government has accepted this recommendation and already set up **a** non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 Crores to wipe out arrears in renewal of over-aged assets within a fixed time frame of 6 years.

(b) Government do not have any proposal to privatise the.Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

Rail Over-Bridges in Assam

2087. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to construct rail over-bridges at vrious stations in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and their present status;

(c) if not, whether Government would conduct a survey of the requirement in the near future; and

(d) the number of accidents at various stations that took place due to absence of rail over-bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.